

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 01212 231150Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 NIC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04

EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 CU-04 DRC-01 /206 W

----- 023622

P R 231030Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7629

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS NIAMEY 1212

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR NG

SUBJECT: COL. KOUNTCHE OUTLINES SMC'S PROGRAM

REF: NIAMEY 1207

1. IN ADDRESS TO NATION APRIL 22, LT. COL. SEYNI KOUNTCHE
ANNOUNCED PROGRAM OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL TO ATTACK
INJUSTICES AND FAILINGS OF FORMER REGIME AND TO SET
COURSE FOR NIGER'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NIAMEY 01212 231150Z

2. RE-ESTABLISHING SOCIAL JUSTICE WOULD BE THE SMC'S PRIMARY GOAL. ARMY HAD NOT SEIZED POWER DUE TO ANY PERSONAL AMBITIONS. IT WAS MOVED SOLELY BY NEED TO ASSURE EACH CITIZEN OF HIS RIGHT AS WELL AS PROTECTION OF HIS PERSON AND PROPERTY. CONTROL COMMISSION WOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE MALPRACTICES AND CORRUPTION OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. OUTCOME OF INQUESTS WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC. RIDDING CIVIL SERVICE OF IRREGULARITIES WOULD BE PURSUED. HE ACCUSED PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS OF BEING ENCUMBERED WITH UNTOUCHABLE FUNCTIONNAIRES WHO HAD LOST ALL SENSE OF PROFESSIONAL CONSCIENCE. CIVIL SERVANTS WHO WERE ALSO BUSINESSMEN WOULD NOT LONGER BE TOLERATED. CHOICE WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE. ANOTHER OBJECTIV WOULD BE REGULATION OF PUBLIC FINANCIAL SITUATION. THE COLONEL ACCUSED DIORI REGIME OF TALKING ABOUT AUSTERITY WHILE AT SAME TIME INCREASING SUPERFLUOUS, PRESTIGIOUS SPENDING. HE ENVISIONED RIGOROUS ECONOMY MEASURES, INCLUDING CUTBACK IN EXTERNAL TRIPS, EXORBITANT MAINTENANCE COSTS AND USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE VEHICLES.

3. SMC'S LONGER RANGE GOALS WILL BE STRUGGLE TO STOP RURAL EXODUS AND COMBAT EFFECTS OF DROUGHT. KOUNTCHE CRITICIZED DIROI GOVERNMENT FOR ABANDONING COUNTRYSIDE IN FAVOR OF URBAN CENTERS. IN ORDER TO STEM MIGRATION TOWARD CITIES, SMC SEES SOLUTION IN UPGRADING LIFE AT VILLAGE LEVEL. AS FOR DROUGHT, KOUNTCHE ANNOUNCED SMC WOULD TAKE OVER DROUGHT RELIEF OPERATIONS AND ELIMINATE FRAUD AND FAVORITISM IN DISTRIBUTION OF GRAIN. IT WAS SCANDALOUS THAT NIGERIENS WERE DYING OF STARVATION WHILE SOME WAREHOUSES WERE FILLED WITH FOOD GRAIN. CREATION OF SPECIAL MINISTRY TO HANDLE AID TO POPULATION TESTIFIED TO WILL OF SMC TO FIND PERTINENT AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS.

4. HANDLING EXPLOSIVE ISSUE OF EDUCATIONAL REFORM CAREFULLY, KOUNTCHE STATED SMC DID NOT WANT PROMISE EASY SOLUTION. SCHOLASTIC YEAR WOULD BE COMPLETED AS USUAL AND DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE BEFORE NEXT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NIAMEY 01212 231150Z

SEPTEMBER. URBAN WORKERS WOULD NO LONGER BE IGNORED OR FORGOTTEN. COL. KOUNTCHE ASKED THAT THEY GO ABOUT THEIR WORK WITH DETERMINATION AND IN SPIRIT OF NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION. HE STATED SMC WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY IDEOLOGICAL PROSELYTIZING AMONG MASSES, DEMONSTRATIONS OF EXCESS ZEAL, OR ATTEMPTS AT REVENGE.

5. TOUCHING ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION, KOUNTCHE SAID THAT MAIN GOAL WOULD BE PURSUIT OF ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE. EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF NATIONAL RESOURCES, WOULD BE INTENSIFIED, BUT THAT INCREASED CAPITAL WOULD BE NEEDED. THE CONCEPT OF PARASTATAL COMPANIES WOULD BE MAINTAINED, BUT THAT SOME CHANGES WOULD BE MADE IN THOSE THAT HAVE NOT WORKED TO NATIONAL INTEREST. THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT CODE WOULD REMAIN IN FORCE, WITH ALL PRIVILEGES PREVIOUSLY GRANTED MAINTAINED.

6. ON SUBJECT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, HE REITERATED SMC'S INTENTION TO HONOR ALL INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS. NIGER WOULD MAINTAIN AND REINFORCE BILATERAL LINKS, AS WELL AS SUPPORT ARAB CAUSE AND FRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. KOUNTCHE CONDEMNED RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, APARTHEID, COLONIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM. HE THANKED INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND FRIENDLY NATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN AID THEY HAD ALREADY GIVEN AND PROMISED ALL AID WOULD BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR BENEFIT OF NEEDY.BUCHE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES, REORGANIZATIONS, SOCIAL CHANGE, EDUCATIONAL REFORMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NIAEMEY01212
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740094-1019
From: NIAEMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740421/aaaaasrk.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NIAEMEY 1207
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2002 by BryanSD>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2003 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COL. KOUNTCHE OUTLINES SMC'S PROGRAM
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NG, (KOUNTCHE, SEYNI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005